

EXHIBIT A PROCLAMATION

"SPIRIT OF '76"

WHEREAS, The famous "Bennington Flag" is known to be the first version of the "Stars and Stripes" to have been flown by American troops in victory over a defeated enemy; and,

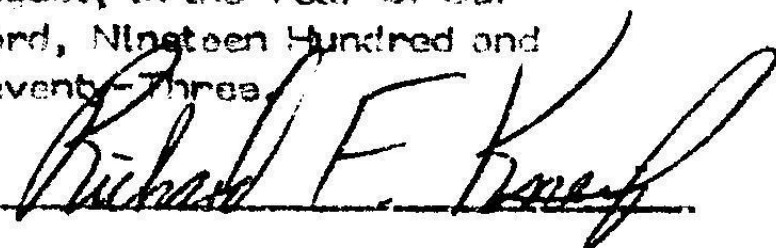
WHEREAS, The Battle of Bennington, where the flag was first unfurled, was an inspiring victory and was called by Thomas Jefferson "the first link in the chain of success" which led to the final victory of American arms at Saratoga; and,

WHEREAS, The theme adopted by the United States of America for its observance of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution is the revitalization of this self-same "Spirit of '76";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD F. KNEIP, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do call upon the citizens of our State to display by their words and deeds a new "Spirit of '76" by involving themselves more fully in public affairs at every level; and,

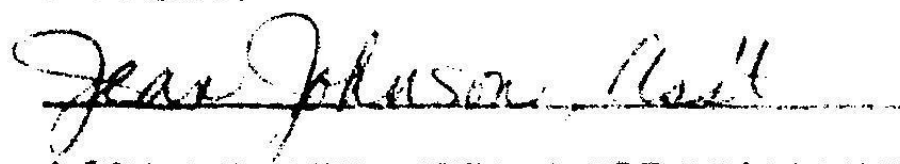
FURTHER, I do proclaim that the Bennington Flag, which by its role in the nation's heritage and its very physical design symbolizes this "Spirit of '76", should be displayed in this State as a positive display of patriotism and personal involvement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota in Pierre, the Capital City, this 28th day of August, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Three.



RICHARD F. KNEIP, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



LORNA B. HERSETH, SECRETARY OF STATE

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